

(ii) means to hinder water evaporating from the skin.

16. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is an inorganic salt.

17. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is an inorganic salt.

18. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.

19. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.

20. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 16 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.

21. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 18 wherein the hydrocarbon comprises petrolatum, liquid paraffin, microcrystalline wax, solid paraffin, or a reaction product of paraffin and polyethylene.

22. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 19 wherein the hydrocarbon comprises petrolatum, liquid paraffin, microcrystalline wax, solid paraffin, or a reaction product of paraffin and polyethylene.

23. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the carrier vehicle further comprises

(iii) liquid means to solubilize ascomycin.

24. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the carrier vehicle further comprises

(iii) liquid means to solubilize 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin.

25. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 23 wherein the liquid means comprises a wax, a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, or fatty oil.
26. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 24 wherein the liquid means comprises a wax, a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, or a fatty oil.
27. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 25 wherein the liquid means is isopropyl myristate.
28. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 26 wherein the liquid means is isopropyl myristate.
29. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the ascomycin is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight of the composition.
30. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight of the composition.
31. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is present in an amount of 0.1 to 20% by weight of the composition.
32. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is present in an amount of 0.1 to 20% by weight of the composition.
33. (new) A method for enhancing penetration of an ascomycin through human skin comprising administering a composition according to claim 14 to said human skin.
34. (new) A method for enhancing penetration of 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin through human skin comprising administering a composition according to claim 15 to said human skin.
35. (new) A method of treatment to an inflammatory or hyperproliferative skin disease comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 14.

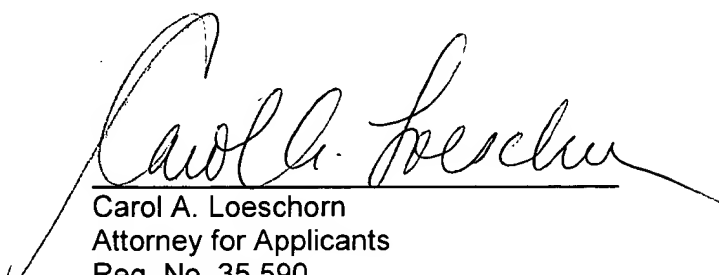
36. (new) A method of treatment to an inflammatory or hyperproliferative skin disease comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 15.

A2 37. (new) A method of treatment of cutaneous manifestations of immunologically mediated diseases comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 14.

38. (new) A method of treatment of cutaneous manifestations of immunologically mediated diseases comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 15.

Respectfully submitted,

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